

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 489

By Holsclaw

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Hampton High School boys' basketball team upon winning the TSSAA Division I, Class A State Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially honor and commend those successful school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary group of student athletes is the Hampton High School boys' basketball team, which achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2022-2023 season by capturing the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division I, Class A State Championship; and

WHEREAS, competing against the top-ranked Middleton High School Tigers who were on a twenty-five-game winning streak, the Hampton High School Bulldogs defeated their opponents in a stunning upset by a score of 51-43; and

WHEREAS, finishing their season with an impressive 29-8 record, the Bulldogs not only claimed a state championship gold ball, they also claimed conference and sub-state championships on their way to Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, this state title marks the first boys' basketball state championship for Hampton High School since the 1960 "Little Mountain Men" team was led to victory by Hall of Fame Coach Walter "Buck" Van Huss; and

WHEREAS, the Bulldogs were led by tournament MVP Cadon Buckles, who was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates Eugene Carrico, Hayden Campbell, and Michael Anspaugh; and

WHEREAS, posting stellar statistics, Cadon Buckles has scored more than 1,400 career points for the Bulldogs while averaging 24 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2.5 steals this season while teammates Eugene Carrico averaged 9 points, 4 rebounds, and took over 25 charges on defense; Hayden Campbell averaged 14 points, 7 rebounds and 3 blocks; and Michael Anspaugh averaged 10 points, 4 assists, 3 steals, and took over 30 charges on defense; and

WHEREAS, the members of the state champion Hampton Bulldogs are Levi Lyons, Dylan Trivett, J.J. McElyea, Michael Anspaugh, Caden Davis, Cadon Buckles, Dalton Nave, Brody Hicks, Chance Point, Bryce Fagan, Jayden Nave, Tuff Robinson, Hayden Campbell, and Eugene Carrico; and

WHEREAS, the young men of the Hampton High School boys' basketball team have displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance, and with the help of their coaches, parents, teachers, school administrators, supporters, and many fans, they have represented their school and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Bulldogs enjoyed the stellar leadership and keen basketball knowledge of Head Coach Ned Smith, who was honored as Conference Coach of the Year, and assistant coaches Dewayne Humphrey, Mike Matheson, and Wesley Murray; and

WHEREAS, a native of Carter County, Coach Ned Smith is a 1992 graduate of Hampton High School, where he was a member of basketball teams that won conference, district, and regional championships and earned a state tournament berth his senior year; and

WHEREAS, after completing college, Coach Smith served as the boys' basketball coach at Cloudland High School, where he led his teams to one conference championship, five district championships, three regional championships, four sub-state appearances, three sub-state victories, and three state tournament berths; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as head coach of his alma mater, he has led the Bulldogs to eleven conference titles, five district tournament titles, six regional titles, nine sub-state appearances, six sub-state victories, and six state tournament berths; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the Hampton High School Bulldogs etched their names into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable basketball season but also surely point toward their success in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the members and coaches of the Hampton High School boys' basketball team upon winning the TSSAA Division I, Class A State Championship and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.